

the Spirit of St. James



St. James Lutheran Church, 1101 High Street, Pottstown, Pennsylvania, 19464 • (610) 326-2810 • March 2007

OUR VISION FOR ST. JAMES LUTHERAN CHURCH
“*To Be, and to Become, a Worshiping, Caring, Teaching,
and Outreaching Congregation.*”

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Sunday Schedule

Worship

8 and 10:45 a.m.

Coffee Fellowship

9 a.m.

Adult Education Classes

9:30 a.m.

Children's Music

9:30 a.m.

Children's Church

10:45 a.m.

Communion Weekly

**See Lenten Worship and Palm Sunday
schedule, pages 5-6.*



OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Thursday
8 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Friday 8 a.m. – noon

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610-326-2810
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www.stjamespottstown.org

STAFF

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Each and Every Member of St. James

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Dr. Stephen & Becky Thorson
Kathmandu, Nepal

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Dawn Detweiler
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OFFICE NOTES

Master Calendar / Room Scheduling

All room reservations, including committee meetings and private gatherings, should be made with Pam in the office. Please indicate to her any need for room rearrangement, (extra chairs, tables) so proper preparations can be made.

Newsletter Deadline for April Edition: March 15, 2007

Article submissions can be sent by e-mail to newsletterstj@stjamespottstown.org or placed in the "newsletter" mailbox the Sunday before the deadline. Also please note that articles may be edited for clarity and space conservation.

Snow Cancellations

Please watch for an announcement on WFMZ Channel 69 or by checking their website at wfmz.com (look for St. James ELC), listen to WPAZ radio (AM 1370), call the church for a message regarding cancellations or changes in the Sunday morning schedule due to inclement weather.

Staff Change

It is with regret that I inform the congregation that by the end of March, Pam Lloyd will no longer be employed at St. James Lutheran Church. Pam has been a dedicated and valuable member of the staff for over five years and we wish her well and pray for the best for her as she departs.

Please feel free to convey to Pam your well wishes for her future as she finishes up here in the next several weeks. A search team has been assembled to begin the process of looking for a replacement for Church Secretary. That search will focus on candidates from outside of the congregation.

PASTOR

A Note From Pastor Hutchinson

Turn Toward God

We have heard that ***“Lent is a time to repent”***.

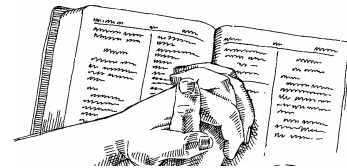
That’s a pretty catchy phrase and one that’s easy to remember. But just what does that mean and how is that done?

For one thing, we often hear that ***“Lent is a time for giving things up.”*** Denying ourselves things, especially things we enjoy, can help us to remember and more deeply appreciate things while giving thanks for how Jesus gave himself up for us so that we may have life after death.

You may have also heard that ***“Lent is a time to practice devotional or spiritual disciplines.”*** That is also true. When we enhance our devotional life through reading and reflecting on passages of scripture or through organized or our own bible study, we can grow in faith and understanding of the God who came to be with us in Christ.

Along those same lines, ***“Lent is a time to be more deliberate in our prayer life”***. That means we take time out in the church year to more closely examine how we might connect better with God through the work of the Holy Spirit in our prayer life. If that prayer life is lame and neglected, then we try to improve it as best we can.

We also are told that ***“Lent is a time to focus more on our own sinfulness and our need for forgiveness”***. This might be the least popular, but most important, practice during Lent. That’s because our flaw is not only that we commit sin, but that we compound that by ignoring, excusing, or trying to just plain forget about our sins. To do those things makes a mockery of what Jesus did on the cross. Instead, we are called in this season to more deliberately admit our wrongs, as well as the good things we have failed to do, and to look to God in Christ for forgiveness.



In short, the word ***“repent”*** means to ***“turn towards God”***. And so during this season of Lent, ***we turn*** by engaging in forms of self-denial and by ***inviting the word of God to work on us and change us for the better. Also by talking to God more often and more deeply than before, and in acknowledging our flaws and our need for a Savior.***

“Lent is a time to repent”. So be it, Amen.

PASTOR

WORSHIP NOTES

Chancel Renovation Vote

As a result of continued discussion within the congregation, it was agreed on Sunday, Feb. 4th, by a decisive vote of 95-30, to do renovation to the Chancel area in St. James.

The primary purpose and motivation for this is to make worshipping God in Jesus Christ a more meaningful experience. We think that will be made possible by having a new Altar moved out closer to the worshippers and by having the Baptismal Font prominent where all can see it regularly. We also believe that this will make our Chancel area consistent with a Lutheran understanding of God's grace in worship by focusing equally on the important aspects of Word (pulpit) and Sacraments (altar and font). The intention is to accomplish this while preserving the best of the character and quality of the décor of St. James.

As part of the presentation, outlines of the proposed changes were distributed and we offered several discussion sessions as well as two Sundays of worshipping with a simulated set up of the renovations. Some of the other changes that will be part of the renovation have taken into consideration all of the comments and suggestions that we have received. We thank all who have participated in this discussion. We expect the work to be done soon and with as little disruption as possible.

Finally, it is understood that this has been an emotional subject for many. But our hope is that we can all accept this decision by giving the new look a chance once it is completed. We also hope and pray that we will continue to work and worship Jesus Christ together, reflecting his being as the body of Christ.



The Church Needs Leadership Article Series

In one sense, you can say that all things created, are created twice. The second creation is when they are actually brought into being, but the first creation is when they are envisioned or imagined before that. A new model car is built, but before that somebody sees that car in their mind's eye, long before it is assembled. The greatest achievements are not accomplished simply by good old-fashioned hard work, but by first having a sense of what will be accomplished.

When God created the world and everything within it and saw that it was good, the end result was certainly not a surprise to Him. God saw in advance how that goodness would look before He even began his work. Likewise, leadership is more than doing or managing the work, but of seeing a direction in which the work should go and in imagining the possibilities of outcomes before a hand is put to the project.

An exploration team was cutting through the thick brush of a jungle, and with everybody working hard and being diligent in their tasks, they seemed to be making very good progress.

When finally, somebody climbed up a tall tree to survey the situation and yelled down, "Hey! We're going the wrong way!"

All organizations need people who are workers, but they also need people who will be bold enough to climb the trees every now and then and look around. Maybe you have more leadership qualities than you think.

Midweek Lenten Worship

Lent is a time when Christians are called to repent, which means in its most basic form, to turn towards God. But when we turn towards God, what do we then do? Well, the bible (and Jesus) often tells us to pray. And yet, do we know how to pray, do we make it a regular part of our life, do we feel like we are praying "the right way"? Even more so, do we know why we are to pray, what to pray for, and do we wonder if it does any good?



During our mid-week Lenten services on Wednesday nights, the message each evening will be on Prayer. Based on Philip Yancy's book 'Prayer: Does it Make Any Difference?' every Wednesday evening we will discuss different aspects of praying to God. So please come and enjoy the delicious soups and salads but most especially come and learn and grow in your faith as we make the Lenten journey to the Cross, and then to the Resurrection.

Worship Service at Parkview Home

St. James will be leading the worship service at **Parkview Home on Sunday, March 11th at 2:00 p.m.** St. James has several members who live there, and this will be a ministry to everyone who desires to hear the word of God. If you would like to assist with this service, please let Pastor know. Car pool arrangements from St. James can be made. The service usually lasts around a half an hour so we can expect to be back home here by 3:30 that afternoon.

Mid-week Lenten Suppers

Lenten soup and salad suppers, followed by worship services continue throughout the month of March. The Rejoicing Spirit folks will also join us for the meal and worship service on March 14.



Meals are served at 6 p.m. and services begin at 7 p.m. each Wednesday up until Holy Week. Each year we enjoy a delicious variety of soups, along with wonderfully fresh and creative salads and good breads. In keeping with the spirit of self-denial of earthly pleasures during Lent, there will be no desserts provided at the suppers, but the meals themselves are wonderful enough and nobody will be disappointed! **Visitors are welcomed**, so bring with you anyone who would like to come.

Mid-Week Bible Study

The mid-week bible study continues in March looking at how God wants us to see and use the possessions that we have and exploring this whole matter of money and possessions as children of God. **The study meets at St. James on Tuesday nights at 7 PM, and at Sanatoga Ridge Community on Thursday mornings at 10 AM.** The weekly study will conclude during Holy Week, April 3rd and 5th. Topics are as follows:

Week of March 4 - The Treasure of Faith/Possessions Part II

Week of March 11 - The Love of Money: What does it do to us?

Week of March 18 - How Much Do We Surrender? - Tithing, Taxes, Generosity

Week of March 25 - Congregational Giving

Week of April 1 - Eternal Rewards

All are invited to attend and bring a friend!

Special Palm Sunday Study

Eco-Friendly Palms and Larger Issues
of Justice in the Marketplaces

April 1, 2007 at 9 a.m.

To go along with our use of eco-palms (please see article on page 9) we will have a special study and discussion on Palm Sunday, exploring the Bible, the Small Catechism, and ELCA Social Statements to find answers as to how we as Lutherans can respond to issues of injustices related to trade and economics. **The study is in the Blue Room and will start at 9 a.m. and end prior to worship.** All are welcome to join in on the discussion and study.



Palm/Passion Sunday

April 1, 2007

One Worship at 10 a.m.

This year we will be celebrating Palm/Passion Sunday with just **one worship service at 10 a.m.** with special music by our choirs. Also new this year is the use of eco-palms (please see the article on page 9) which are full palm branches. Because of the palm procession, we will **first gather for worship in Horn Hall and then proceed to the narthex.** Please come and worship on this special Sunday and invite your friends and neighbors.

Wednesday, April 4, 2007

Seder Meal at 6 p.m.

Come celebrate our Judeo-Christian roots at the Seder Meal. Passover is the oldest religious festival in Judaism, commemorating God's deliverance of the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt and his creation of the Israelite people. The focal point of Passover is a communal meal, called the Seder (which means "order," because of the fixed order of service), which is a time of rejoicing and celebration at the deliverance of the Hebrews that God accomplished in the exodus. The Seder ritual also has great meaning for Christians. It was the Seder Meal that Jesus was celebrating with His disciples when He instituted the Last Supper. Please sign up in Horn Hall starting March 11 if you plan to attend. Also mark if you would like to contribute foods, help with set up, serving or cleanup. A free-will offering will be taken at the meal.

Maundy Thursday Worship

April 5, 2007

There will be a Traditional Maundy **Thursday worship service at 7 p.m.**, with laying on of hands for individual absolution announced and Holy Communion celebrated. At the end of the service, the Altar will be stripped to symbolize the stripping and humiliation of Jesus at the cross.



Good Friday Worship

Friday, April 6, 2007

Two worship services will be held on Good **Friday at 3 and 7 p.m.** recognizing the day that Jesus was crucified.

Children's Church Something New in Lent

Children's Church is trying something new in Lent. **We are using a rotational model curriculum for the season of Lent.** What that means is that the same lesson will be taught each week, but the way it is taught will be different. One week the learning will happen through music, another through food, another through art, another through games, another through video, etc.

The focus for Lent is Jesus calls disciples and the primary story will be Matthew 4:18-22 where Jesus calls the fishermen. The hope is that by the end of Lent the children will be able to retell the story in their own words, define disciple, be able to name the twelve disciples, know what it means to be a disciple both in Jesus' time and today, and memorize Matthew 4:19. **All children preschool-grades 5 are welcome to attend Children's Church during the 10:45 a.m worship time.**



Hoagie Sale

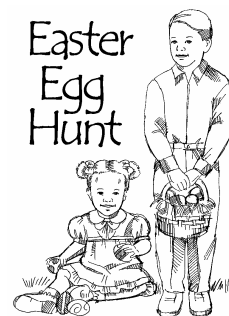
Jessica Mitchell will be having a **hoagie sale starting February 17 and ending on March 10.** She is currently fundraising so that she can participate in a Lead America conference in Europe this summer. You can see her in Horn Hall after both services if you are interested in purchasing a hoagie. **The hoagies will cost \$4 a piece or three of them for \$10. Delivery will be on March 10,** but you can also buy them that day as well. If you do not want a hoagie, but want to support Jessica in her endeavor, donations are greatly appreciated.

Easter Potluck Breakfast and Easter Egg Hunt Sunday, April 8

A potluck breakfast sponsored by the Christian Education Committee and the Sunday Morning Adult Education Classes will be held on Easter **Sunday, April 8 between the two worship services.** Also that morning will be an **Easter Egg Hunt with a devotion for children beginning at 10:15 a.m.**

A sheet will be available later in March in Horn Hall to **sign up if you plan to attend** the breakfast. A free-will offering will be collected to cover the cost of coffee, juice, supplies, etc. Any offering collected beyond expenses will be given to the Sebastian Kolowa University College or SEKUCo, a project of the SEPA Synod and the Northeast Dioceses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. If you would like to volunteer your time to set up, help serve, or clean up, please see Ron or Grace Schafer, Melinda Mace or Suzanne Rigg.

There will also be a **collection box in Horn Hall** starting on March 18 for anyone who would like to donate plastic eggs and candy for the egg hunt.



FAITH PRACTICES

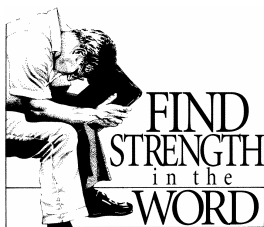
What They Are and Do - Part 3

Followers of Jesus are inspired to develop practices and patterns for living that characterize a life that is devoted to daily discipleship. **Seven common practices have been identified as key to model and nurture: prayer, study, worship, invite, encourage, serve and give.**

Faith Practices Teach and Train Emotions

Take a time-honored cultural practice of watching television and look at its impact on the emotions. Tune in during Saturday morning, kiddie-time TV, and think about the feelings evoked. A fourth-grade class in Portland, Oregon, took notes: whether kickboxing or punching, shooting or slashing, there was a violent act every 60 seconds. What emotions are evoked? The answers are chilling: fear, aggression, desensitization to violence and desire for more.

Practices have the potential to transform or deform the emotions. Just as sinews connect bone to bone, emotions connect people one to another. They are the connective tissue of human society. Depending on how they are trained, they can build up or tear down.



Faith practices train the emotions in ways that are God-shaped and God-shaping. For this reason, sixth century abbot Benedict of Nursia recommended the daily practice of common, spoken prayer. During a week of prayer, the monks would move through the entire book of Psalms. Imagine the impact this practice had on the emotions, and think of the emotions evoked. The psalmists paint with a rich emotional palette that carries all colors of the rainbow. There is room in a relationship with God for everything: rejoicing and despair, consolation and abandonment, judgment and mercy. Reading the Psalms lets the word color us, bringing out the many hues in our experience with God and our neighbor. We find ourselves with an emotional range we could not ourselves choose or expand.

Reflection:

How have you seen emotions trained by experience? How have you seen emotions trained by prayer?

Taken from A Lutheran Perspective on Faith Practice By Dr. Martha E. Stortz, Professor, Historical Theology and Ethics, Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary, Berkeley, California

Eco-palms: A Healthier Harvest



The next day the great crowd that had come for the Feast heard that Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem. They took palm branches and went out to meet him, shouting, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord! Blessed is the King of Israel!" (John 12: 12-13)

Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem was accented by the jubilant waving of palm branches and is reenacted each Palm Sunday in congregations worldwide as our observance of Holy Week begins. Unfortunately, for the communities where these palms are harvested, palm fronds do not always represent the same jubilation they do for us.

Environment and Indigenous Communities at Risk:

Harvesting palm products is an important source of supplemental income for many indigenous families and communities in Guatemala and Mexico. However, over-harvesting palms can threaten the livelihood of these communities as well as the forests where the palm plants thrive. Typically, palm-harvesting is done by community members that are hired by local contractors. They then sell palms to large floral export firms. Payment is based on volume so the harvesters are motivated to gather a large number of palms without regard for the quality. As a result, up to 50% or more of the palms are later discarded because of poor quality. This method risks the rapid depletion of the forest's rich biodiversity, including the many bird species that migrate to these regions during the winter. Many of the palm-producing areas in Central America are important biosphere reserves, where palms are part of the natural forest.

A Healthier Harvest:

Lutheran World Relief has partnered with the University of Minnesota to help build support in the U.S. for eco-palms by introducing Lutheran parishes to this social and environmental justice project. Called *eco-palms*, the palms are harvested in a more sustainable way – harvesters are paid on the quality of the palms they harvest rather than the quantity, which helps to limit the amount of palms taken from the forest.

And, rather than sending the harvested palms off to a distant warehouse for sorting and packaging, the community members complete those tasks themselves and sell their palms directly rather than relying on middlemen. In this way, eco-palms improve local communities' standard of living and ensure that the money paid for the palms benefit those who labor.

When done in a socially and environmentally just way, palm gathering protects valuable natural forests. Steady markets for palm prevent the forest from being destroyed for other uses. Eco-palms protect the unique and important biodiversity of the region and maintain the local communities' standards of living.

Our role in supporting social and environmental justice:

More than 300 million palm fronds are harvested each year for U.S. consumption alone—most of them for Palm Sunday, but also for floral displays. St. James has partnered with Lutheran World Relief to use *eco-palms*. As we raise our branches in celebration on Palm Sunday, we will play an important role in protecting forests, local jobs, and sustainable livelihoods in harvesting communities. *Halleluiah!!*

For more information on the eco-palms program, you can go to www.lwr.org/palms.

Third Sunday Offering March Recipient

Pottstown Cluster of Religious
Communities and the Feinstein Challenge

The Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities (PCRC) **has been providing various forms of assistance to people in need in the Greater Pottstown Area for over 30 years.** Resources for the work of PCRC come from different sources including the United Way, the religious communities, individuals, civic organizations and businesses. All funds raised and all donations collected are greatly appreciated and enable this organization to fulfill its mission.

Raising funds can be a difficult task so PCRC looks for ways to maximize the donations received. That is why PCRC is again participating in the Feinstein Challenge. For a tenth straight year, Alan Shawn Feinstein will divide \$1,000,000 among hunger-fighting agencies nationwide using it to help them raise funds during March and April 2007.

For all money and food items received by the Cluster from March 1 through April 30, 2007, PCRC is permitted to count the financial contributions in dollars and food donations as \$1 per item. This information is then submitted to the Feinstein Foundation in early May and the Cluster receives a proportionate share of the \$1 million posted by Mr. Feinstein based on the amounts raised by all agencies in the country participating in the Challenge by the end of June.

Even though the Cluster does not receive a dollar-for-dollar match on the funds raised, the additional money still helps PCRC help others.

PCRC asks you to consider making a financial contribution and/or food donations during the months of March and April either through St. James' Third Sunday Offering in March or through the ongoing food collection that St. James sponsors. Thank you.

Third Sunday Offering Schedule

APRIL - Visiting Nurse Association

MAY - Manatawny Manor

JUNE - Salvation Army

JULY - Missionaries

AUGUST - School supplies for children

SEPTEMBER - Lutheran World Relief

OCTOBER - Cluster Outreach Center

NOVEMBER - Prison Fellowship

DECEMBER - ELCA World Hunger



Rejoicing Sprits worship this month will be done jointly with our regular mid-week Lenten worship. We have invited the "Rejoicers" to **join us for supper and then worship on Wednesday, March 14.** Please join us for worship that evening.

DISCIPLESHIP and FELLOWSHIP and SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Cluster Outreach Center

Current Volunteer Needs:

Clothing Sorters - Volunteers needed to unpack, sort, tag and rack donations of adult clothing, shoes and household items.

Food Pantry - There is a lot of food to sort at the Outreach Center. If you can read, you can sort.

If you would like to volunteer, contact the Outreach Center at 610-970-5995, or stop in at 137 Walnut Street, Pottstown.

Pantry Needs:

Juice, powdered milk, canned pasta, macaroni and cheese.

Clothing & Household Needs:

Children's socks, girl's size 14 & 16 winter clothes, can openers, coffee makers, queen and king size sheets.

Baby Needs:

Similac Advance w/iron formula, size 5 & 6 diapers and stage 1 & 3 baby food.

Always needed:

Brown paper grocery bags, quart and gallon size Ziploc plastic bags (freezer and regular), empty water bottles with lids.

Donations accepted Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday 9-11 a.m. and Wednesday 3-5 p.m. Also from 9-11 a.m. on the first and third Saturday of the month.

Wednesday LENTEN Worship Annual Lenten Luncheon Series

The Annual Lenten Luncheon Series sponsored by the Pottstown Clergy Association is being held on **Thursdays from noon to 1 p.m. during Lent**. The luncheon series is held at **Emmanuel Lutheran Church** with catering by L & L Catering. Donations for lunch should be comparable to the cost of a similar meal at a local diner (minimum of \$3/person). Donations to the Cluster Outreach Center will also be accepted. **This year's theme is The Body of Christ.**

March 1: The Eyes of Christ (John 11:41) - the Rev. Robert Hoffman, Cedarville United Methodist Church

March 8: The Hands of Christ (Matthew 19:13-15) - the Rev. Rebecca Brenner, St. Paul United Church of Christ

March 15: The Mouth of Christ (Matthew 13:34-35) - the Rev. James Hilker, Trinity Reformed United Church of Christ

March 22: The Ears of Christ (Matthew 11:15) - the Rev. John Smolik, St. Peter Lutheran Church

March 29: The Hear of Christ (Matthew 11:28-30) - the Rev. Peter Nichols, Zion's United Church of Christ

Salvation Army Community Lunch

Each second Wednesday of the month a group of volunteers from St. James prepares and serves the community lunch at the Salvation Army. Help is needed at different times between 8:30 a.m. and 1:30 For info please contact Jean Drauschak at 610-323-1792.

Community Meal

This month, volunteers are needed March 22 to provide desserts, cook, set up and clean up. For more information, please call Susan Cameron at 610-718-9926.

WELCA News

Women of the church will be preparing and **servicing the Lenten Wednesday Meal on March 28th**, and there will **not be a formal meeting during March.**

Remember the Spring Red Door Boutique a/k/a "**Rummage Sale Time**" is **June 4th and 5th.** Clean items are appreciated! If you have new items with tags attached, please remember to keep them on and indicate "new" so we can pass those items on to the local Church In-Gathering.

Women of the ELCA Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study

The next WELCA Upper Montgomery Conference Bible Study **will be at St. James Lutheran Church, Limerick** led by Ann Seislove on **Tuesday, March 6, 2007** at 10 a.m. with coffee at 9:30 a.m.

The **April Bible Study will be on April 3** at Grace Lutheran Church, Pottstown with the leader being Barbara Lutz. All women are invited to participate in these Bible Studies found in the Lutheran Woman Today Magazine. If you would like to attend, please contact Grace Schafer or Mary Arnt for carpooling arrangements.

SCRIP

Scrip are negotiable gift certificates that are used just like cash, issued by national and local retailers. With every purchase, Scrip earns revenue for the hunger programs we support through these efforts. **SCRIP is available every Sunday from the end of the first service to the beginning of the second.**

SEPA 2007 Mission Fair March 24, 2007 LTSP Brossman Center

Join Bishop Claire Burkat and Brian McLaren, author of *A New Kind of Christian, A Generous Orthodoxy* and *More Ready than you Realize*, for a day of learning and conversation about how discipleship in the Lutheran tradition can energize your congregation to make a difference in the mission field around you. Choose from workshops addressing inspiring worship, passionate spirituality, relational evangelism, the future of the church, intro to natural church development, enabling mission, and reaching youth/young adult culture.

Everyone is invited to attend. We will carpool to and from the fair. For more information concerning the workshops and registration, please contact Suzanne Rigg or Pastor Hutchinson at 610-326-2810. **Living in God's amazing grace: Making a difference in the mission field.**

Altar Flowers, Eternal Light Bulletin Sponsorships

The cost of each sponsorship is \$15 for eternal light, \$40 for altar flowers, and \$15 for bulletins. **Sign up sheets are posted in Horn Hall** for anyone interested. Envelopes are available in Horn Hall on the resource table. Cash or check payment can be placed in offering or turned in to the office.

Just a reminder that we do not put flowers on the altar during Lent (Sundays of February 25 - April 1). Please feel free to sponsor the eternal light or the bulletins during that time.

Scholarship Fund Applications Available

A \$1000 a year is available to be given to youth as scholarship monies for college or post high school education. Allocation of the scholarship money will be dependent on the number of approved candidates as determined by the Scholarship Committee. Applications are available from the office and **must be submitted completed no later that March 15, 2007.**

The following criteria will be considered when granting these scholarships:

- * Applicant must be an active member of St. James for a minimum of one year.
- * Applicant must be active in St. James' ministries.
- * Applicant must be a graduating Senior of their high school and are eligible to receive scholarship monies up to five years from their high school graduation date.
- * Applicant must graduate with a minimum 2.5 GPA or its equivalent.
- * Applicant must be accepted into or participating in a recognized program of studies (ex. college, junior college, community college, nursing school, trade school, etc.)
- * Applicant must have a satisfactory record of school citizenship and attendance.
- * Applicant may apply more than once for this scholarship if they met the above criterion.



If you have any questions about this exciting program, please contact the office for further details. **Don't forget to make the March 15th deadline.**



Blood Pressure Checks

Do you know what your Blood Pressure is? Have a check in **Horn Hall on March 4th**. Checks are held following the 8 a.m. worship service and again prior to the 10:45 a.m. service.

Blood Drive

The next blood drive is **Monday, April 9th 2 - 7:30 p.m.** Please contact Marge Fegley at 610-323-3936 to make an appointment to give.

Bus Trip To Sight and Sound Theatre

April 26, 2007
"In The Beginning"

Earl and Helen Moyer wish to extend an invitation to the members and friends of St. James Church to join them on a bus trip on **April 26, 2007 to the Sight and Sound Millennium Theatre** for the presentation of "In The Beginning." We will depart from Kmart at 8:00 a.m. and enjoy a breakfast buffet in the William Penn Room at Willow Valley Resort at 9:30 a.m., see the show at 12:00 Noon, and return to Kmart at about 4:30 p.m. The complete cost including taxes and tips is \$74.50/person. Payment for tickets is due by March 26, 2007. Please see Helen and Earl for tickets and more information.

MEMBER NEWS

March Birthdays



2 – Marvin Kehler; 5 – Immy Moore;
7 – Rusty Bealer, Gen Clouser, Robert DuVal;
11 – Tracie Rheel, Pattie Schaeffer; 12 – John
Jacobs; 13 – Mya Detweiler, Adam Hoehne,
Jennifer Yashin; 14 – Todd Reber; 18 – Katie
Johnson; 20 – Cindy Kehler; 21 – Jennifer
Mittura, Alison O'Donnell; 23 – James
Reidnauer, Iva Trate; 24 – Krista Schmalbach;
25 – James Warner, Larry Wert; 27 – Beth
Cocci, John Ungerman, Ray Yocom;
28 – Lorraine Smith; 30 – Elsie Drauschak,
Jon Fink, Sherrie Hedrick; 31 – Barbara
Drauschak

Thank you notes

Thank you Pastor Hutchinson for your prayers and visits while I was in Lehigh Valley Hospital and Bryn Mawr Rehab. Thank you for the flowers and for bringing communion to me. And to my St. James family, thank you for your prayers and cards.

Paul Eshbach

Thank you to all who worked to set up the chancel area to simulate the proposed chancel renovations and to those who restored it to its original state.

Meet Our Newest Members

Margaret (Maggie) Hutchinson was born in Princeton, NJ and has grown up and lived mostly in New Jersey and Pennsylvania. She is a graduate of Philipsburg Osceola Senior High School and is currently a student at Montgomery County Community College. She comes to St. James from First Lutheran Church.

John Piorko was born in the Crozier Chester Medical Center and grew up Boothwyn, PA. He is a graduate of Garnet Valley High School and Williamson Trade School. Now living in Pottstown, John also has lived in Wilmington, DE. He is currently employed at Westover working with the maintenance department. John enjoys games, baseball and other sports.

Vanessa Thompson was born in Reading and grew up in Pottstown. She is a graduate of Pottsgrove High School and has a B.S. in Elementary Education and an honorary degree in Spanish from Bloomsburg State College. Vanessa now lives in Pottstown but has also lived in Philadelphia. She was a first grade teacher and is currently employed as a peer specialist for Creative Health. She enjoys walking, swimming, reading and loves to go camping. She comes to St. James from St. Peter's Lutheran Church.

Edward (Ed) and Shirley Van Buren both grew up in Tamaqua, PA and previous to that Ed was born in Mahanoy City and Shirley in Coaldale, PA. Ed is a graduate of St. Jerome's Catholic School and completed some course work at Penn State. He is currently retired after working for 44 years at Cabot Supermetals in Boyertown as a maintenance worker. Shirley is a graduate of Tamaqua Senior High School and the Pottstown Memorial Medical School of Nursing. She completed some course work at Millersville University. Shirley is retired from psychiatric nursing as a registered nurse. Ed and Shirley enjoy spending time with their family, especially their grandchildren, and friends, traveling and gardening. They come to St. James from St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Boyertown.

Earl Wilson was born in Jeffersonville, Pa but grew up and lived all over the country because his father was an officer in the U.S. Army. Earl is a graduate of Norristown High School and PMC Military College. He is married to wife Doris for twelve years and has three grown children - Mark, Wendy and Debbie. He is currently retired and enjoys boating at Ocean City, MD. Earl comes to us from First United Methodist, Pottstown.

2007 Church Council Member Biographies:

PRESIDENT OF THE CONGREGATION, **RON SCHAFER** was born and raised in Lehighton where he was graduated from Lehighton High School. He majored in library science and English at Kutztown State Teachers College (now Kutztown University) and did graduate work at Temple University. After serving for 37 years as a teacher of English and as librarian at Pottsgrove High School, Ron retired in 1995. Ron and Grace are the parents of three sons and are grandparents to two granddaughters and a grandson. Among Ron's pastimes are reading, walking, and traveling. At St. James, he is a member of the Christian Education Committee and serves as a lector, courier and a counter.

VICE-PRESIDENT, **VICKIE KIRSTEN** was born and raised in Baltimore Md. She received a Bachelor's in Science Degree in Nursing from Widener University, where she also met Justin and were married after graduation. Vickie received a Master's Degree in Science from Rutgers University and is currently practicing in Havertown, Pa as a certified nurse practitioner. She is an adjunct professor at Temple University and Thomas Jefferson University. Vickie has two sons, Kyle 9 and Evan 6. She enjoys scrapbooking, card making, gardening and swimming. She also enjoys being an active member of St. James Lutheran Church and is honored to serve as vice-president on the church council.

TREASURER, **SHERRY ROHN CLANCY** is a Lehigh Valley native and lifelong Lutheran. Sherry graduated from Wilson Area HS in Easton. She earned degrees in chemistry from Moravian College and Lehigh University. After ten years with Occidental Chemical, she is now a stay-at-home mom with one daughter Dana, three dogs, and three cats. Since joining in 1999, her best memories at St. James were Dana's 2006 baptism, her 2001 wedding, and the 2000 Haiti Mission Trip. She and husband Don serve together on the Endowment Committee. Sherry also plays in the bell choir, and serves on the Website, Stewardship, and Finance Committees, and oversees the Audit Committee. Her other activities include reading, gardening, and genealogy.

SECRETARY, **JOHN UNGERMAN** is a native of Hatboro. He is married to Barbara and they have 2 married daughters. John is a Senior Financial Consultant with Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. They relocated to Pottstown and joined St. James in June of 2000. Since joining John has served on council as treasurer, president and now secretary. He is the chair of the property committee and is leading the building repair program currently in progress. John is the chair of the Manatawny Manor Advisory Board and has been elected to serve as a voting delegate to this year's ELCA National Assembly. His hobbies are golf and model trains.

MARY ARNT was born and raised on a ranch in Oklahoma. She graduated from Blackwood Davis College. She married Gib Arnt and they have three children. After moving to Pennsylvania Mary took courses in English Literature, Ancient History, Spanish and other classes at Ursinus College as well as Real Estate Law and other classes at Penn State. At St. James she has served as a council member, lay reader, counter, greeter, president of WELCA. She has also served as coordinator for the Upper Montgomery Cluster of Churches. Her hobbies are traveling, reading, gardening and horseback riding.

DAVID HARTZMAN was born and raised in Norristown and served four years in the U.S. Air Force. He has been a member of St. James for ten years. He is the father of five, Dana, Matthew, Noelle, Chelsea and Alyssa. He works for Westover Builders in the maintenance department in King of Prussia. At St. James he is the chairperson of the Evangelism Committee and is active with the Rejoicing Spirits ministry. He has been on several work mission trips, including the trip to Haiti and has stayed involved with The Haiti Mission Society that is building an orphanage in Port a Prince.

JEFF LEIBY grew up in Berks County over the hill from Virginville and graduated from Penn State, Kutztown State, and Lehigh University. He's married to Robin; their children Gwen and Dylan reside in Kalamazoo, Michigan where they grew up while Jeff worked for The Upjohn Company. He's presently working as a chemist to discover new drugs with GlaxoSmithKline near Collegeville. Jeff appreciates nature while doing yard work, or on an occasional hike, or sometimes while camping. He likes to read,

and relaxes by playing electronic games. He sings in choir, helps with the property committee, and joins in Bible Study and Sunday School.

MIKE LUNN was born in Toledo, Ohio and raised in Pottstown. He is a graduate of Pottstown High School and received a B.S. and M.Ed. He holds degrees from West Chester University and completed additional graduate work and Penn State University. In 1960 he joined the U.S. Marine Corps. And served as a Communication and Artillery Officer, attaining the rank of Major. With his wife Janis they have three children and two, soon to be four, grandchildren. Mike joined St. James in 1955 and serves on the Property and Personnel Committees. Retired from the Boyertown School Area School District, he has been on all but two of the St. James mission trips. Mike enjoys reading, outdoor activities and traveling.

CHIPPER (RICHARD) MEADOWCROFT grew up in Kennett Square/Avondale Pa. He graduated from Avon Grove High School in 1969. He received his Associate Degree in Accounting and now works for Wachovia Bank. He moved to the Pottstown area when he married his wife Sandy. He has one daughter, Tracy. At St. James he is an usher and chalice bearer.

JESSICA MITCHELL was born in Chicago and moved and raised in Pottstown from when she was 5. Jessica is currently a sophomore at Pottsgrove High School. Right now, she is ranked first in her class and is interested in pursuing a career in the medical field sometime in the future. In school, she is involved in the History Club, Science Club, Key Club, and serves as a managing editor for Maximi, the school's literary magazine. She also has a part-time job at the Coventry Café where she buses tables. She enjoys playing softball, horseback riding, skiing, traveling and photography. In the community, she volunteers to work summer hours at her school in the office, participates in multiple Key Club volunteer activities, and partakes in the Polar Bear Plunge to raise money for the Special Olympics.

ALLISON O'DONNELL was born in Johnstone, Renfrewshire, Scotland. She emigrated with her parents and two older sisters (Doreen and Jean) to the US in February of 1967. She school in the Perkiomen Valley school district from Kindergarten through high school graduation. Around the time Alison graduated High School, she worked in the Montgomery County Geriatric and Rehabilitation Center. She then went to work at SmithKline & French, then Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, and then back to SmithKline Beecham Pharmaceuticals, and is currently working as a Clinical Data Scientist. She is married to Pat and they have two daughters, (her step-daughter, Jennifer, 18 and her daughter, Morgan, 3 ½) and a dog, Pete. Her hobbies include enjoying Morgan, crocheting, stained glass, reading, painting, scrapbooking. St. James has become a real part her life. Although she moved to Exeter Twp over a year ago, and there are a couple of Lutheran churches within five miles of our home, she attends St. James because she feels that the members of the church are a part of my family.

TRACIE RHEEL was born and raised in Pottstown (at St. James) and graduated from Pottsgrove High School in 1990. She has a B.A. in Mathematics and Environmental Studies from Bucknell University. She recently changed jobs and now works closer to home at the Pottstown Mercury, after commuting to FedEx Kinko's in King of Prussia & Exton for nearly 12 years. Tracie returned to St. James in 2003, and she currently serves on the stewardship committee, the Relay for Life team, a counting team & supports Rejoicing Spirits the 2nd Wednesday of every month! Her hobbies are cooking and reading.

DOTTIE SMITH spent her childhood in creeks, climbing trees, playing in the woods and attending Schwenksville schools. She graduated from the Norristown Area Schools and completed Radiological Technology training in Philadelphia. She has her Bachelor of Science degree from Widener in allied health education. IN her career, Dottie has done routine x-rays, directed Radiology Technology program, CT scanning and DXA bone density scanning and education. She is divorced and has one daughter, Laurel. She enjoys teaching, reading, Bridge, herb and flower gardening and cooking. Dottie would like to some day para-sail in Hawaii and see icebergs in Alaska and fjords in Norway. She loves her extended church family.

SCOTT STRICHIK was born in Mount Pleasant, southeast of Pittsburgh. His family moved to Blue Bell when he was 8. He graduated from Wissahickon High School and earned his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration/Accounting from Delaware Valley College in Doylestown. Scott works at Roselon Industries in Quakertown where he recently became Controller. He lives in Upper Pottsgrove with his wife Kim and their two sons Nathan (3) and Justin (1). Scott enjoys reading history books, playing ice hockey, skiing, camping and cooking, especially when he has Nathan's help. At Saint James, Scott has been a soundboard technician, a counting team captain and serves on the Endowment committee.

Council Member Contact

If at anytime you have a question, concern, or suggestion that might help the church, you may contact one of the following elected Council members.

Ron Schafer 610-326-4814
President, Represents Christian Ed. Comm.
Email: ronslibrary@aol.com

Vickie Kirsten 610-326-2410
Vice-President, Represents Fellowship Comm.
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John Ungerman 610-718-9368
Secretary, Represents Property Comm.
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Jessica Mitchell 610-970-4250
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TREASURER REPORT

	Jan 2007	Year to Date
Income	\$21,735.43	\$ 21,735.43
Expenses	22,468.12	22,468.12
Net Income	(\$ 732.69)	(\$ 732.69)

REGULAR ENVELOPES

Received	\$16,178.00	\$16,178.00
Needed*	19,780.31	19,780.31
Over (Under)	(\$ 3,602.31)	(\$ 3,602.31)

THIRD SUNDAY OFFERING

Collected	\$ 332.00
Beneficiary:	<i>Community Meal</i>

*Figures for each month includes \$14,729 actual pledged and \$5,051 needed growth to balance the budget.